

HRS / Palm Beach County Public Health Unit

ANNUAL

REPORT

• October 1, 1990 • September 30, 1991 •

Reaching Out

For Reference

Not to be taken from this room

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Reaching out to the community...



I am pleased to share with you the accomplishments of the HRS/Palm Beach County Public Health Unit during 1990-91. The extraordinary efforts and innovative programs produced during this year are not only the results of our dedicated staff, but also the many community agencies, organizations, cultural groups and individual leaders who have helped to assess health problems and have worked together to resolve them.

Adequate health care is a legal right in the state of Florida, yet financial, social, cultural and informational barriers stand in the way of receiving urgent medical attention and preventive care. Through new programs such as "People Reach," The Boynton Community Life Center and school-based health clinics, we are joining forces and reaching out to the community to bring services where they are needed most.

By listening to individuals and groups within our diverse community, we are able to go beyond traditional health care practices to solve problems. Working with entities such as the Health Care District, non-profit health agencies, Haitian and Hispanic community centers, churches and schools, we are able to reach individuals and say, "If you cannot come to us, we will come to you. How can we help?"

Reaching out to the community is listening to individuals' needs, working together to find untapped resources, knocking down barriers to accessing health care, and relaying culturally sensitive information in a way everyone can understand.

It may not sound simple, but it can be done. Many projects to ensure comprehensive care are just beginning. Working together, we may all take pride in seeing the results.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Jean M. Malecki" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jean M. Malecki, MD, MPH
Health Unit Director
Medical Director 1989 - 1991



BOYNTON COMMUNITY LIFE CENTER

In January 1991, the Boynton Community Life Center began providing direct services to expecting mothers and mothers with infants up to six months of age who live in a high-risk neighborhood in Boynton Beach.

"The goal is to empower these people to become self-sufficient and create an environment that is healthy and wholesome for raising children," says Nellie Tillman, assistant project director. "What is unique about this program is that it's a partnership. We don't go into their homes and tell them what to do. We look at their issues and concerns, and we develop a plan together."

The project is one of three in the state established by the Florida Legislature as a Children's Early Investment Program and funded by The Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida. Goals of the project include: improving maternal and infant health, optimizing the functioning of family units to promote healthy and positive development for children, and supporting parental self-sufficiency.

The project's success, Tillman says, rests on changing behaviors. Staff members teach mothers how to care for their infants and provide opportunities for financial assistance, education and employment. "The primary focus is on the infants, but infants do not live in vacuums. They live in families," she says. "What are you going to do with the moms? They're the ones who shape the child's life."

Staff members act as advocates for the families, helping to ensure they receive appropriate and timely services. Participants learn to work within government systems, earn an education and become productive citizens.

Participation is voluntary and the



programs are comprehensive. The project works with 75 participants and their families from the target area, about 18 of whom are teenagers. Participants are 13 years and older, with up to seven children. Most are unwed. An adult group meets every Wednesday. The center is planning to develop at least four more parent support groups, including one for Haitians.

Through case management, staff members will follow the children's medical care and development through three years of age. Four case managers make weekly home visits. During these visits, workers reinforce what has been taught in classes, answer questions and check to see if children's immunizations are up to date and medical and financial assistance appointments are kept. Discussions include health care, well-baby checkups, education and vocational training, economic issues (including AFDC, food stamps, WIC and housing), marital issues, family issues, infant stimulation, and Head Start applications for siblings. Participants have a chance to

talk with someone one-on-one and bring up issues that specifically concern them.

The Palm Beach County School Board provides facilities for the project free of charge. The Adult Education Program worked with the Boynton Community Life Center to establish a GED program across the street at Royal Poinciana Elementary School. Also, many school-age participants have either returned to their former public school or attend the South Technical Education Center through the Teen Parent Program. Child care for those returning to school has been obtained through Child Care Resource and Referral, Inc. and the School Board's Child Care Services. Two participants are now attending college. One received a \$500 donation toward college from St. John's Baptist Church.

"We've gotten tremendous support from community organizations, businesses and churches," Tillman says. "The Kiwanis of Boynton Beach have actively supported the program, along with Mayor Arline Weiner."

The project has an advisory board, consisting of members of the community, local banks and other businesses,

fraternities and sororities. The board meets monthly to identify needs of the project and participants and provide support services.

On Sept. 18, 1991, the project held a special "Teens Speak Out" event that focused on self-esteem, drug abuse prevention and sex education regarding the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, AIDS and pregnancy. Supporters of the event included area businesses, WYFX radio, Barnett Bank, Suburban Bank and Pepsi-Cola.

It will take time to see if this new project will meet all of its objectives. As one staff member said, "We recognize the fact that our participant families' behaviors and problems will not be resolved overnight... We have the patience to work with these families and believe that we are making important strides in helping them realize some of their goals."





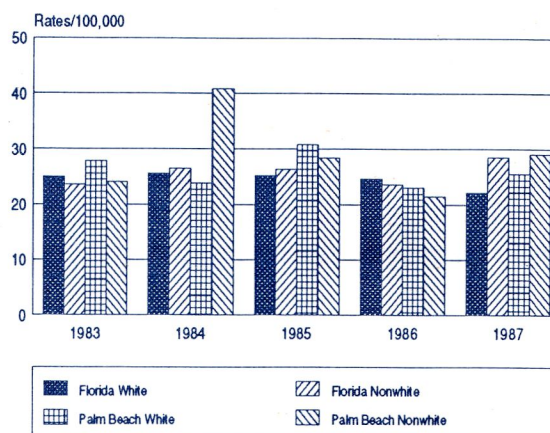
PEOPLE REACH

Cancer among the medically underserved is a serious national and local problem. There is a high percentage of diagnosis made in the later stages of the disease, meaning the chances of full recovery are much less than if the cancer was detected earlier. "People Reach" was created by the Palm Beach Unit of the American Cancer Society and the HRS/ Palm Beach County Public Health Unit in October 1990 to address the needs of those individuals not currently reached by our health care system.

"People Reach" is a community-based program that recruits and trains volunteers to go into urban and rural culturally diverse communities to teach early-detection strategies. Health unit Director Jean Malecki, M.D., M.P.H., serves as the chairperson of the "People Reach" Task Force. The task force has targeted high-risk populations, developed culturally sensitive educational programs and information, and reduced barriers to accessing health care.

Breast cancer awareness and early detection education have been the first priorities of "People Reach". In Palm Beach County, 25.6 of every 100,000 white women and 29.1 of every 100,000 non-white women died of breast cancer in 1987. These rates are higher than the state of Florida averages. By stage of disease at the time of diagnosis, white women in Palm Beach County have this disease diagnosed while it is still localized 55 percent of the time. Non-white women have localized disease diagnosed only 40 percent of the time. These are unacceptable health indicators. This statistical data provided the information that proved "People Reach" is a valuable community initiative in reaching out to the target population.

FEMALE BREAST CANCER MORTALITY RATES FLORIDA & PALM BEACH COUNTY, 1983-87



Goals and objectives of the task force include:

Increasing prevention and detection availability.

Enhancing educational approaches in order to overcome fear.

Developing culturally sensitive programs and materials.

Helping the underserved access the health care system.

Involving community leaders and representative groups in cancer education.

Educating health care providers as to the goals, objectives and philosophy of "People Reach".

In March 1991, a mammography tracking and referral system for women 40 years and older coming into the public health care system was developed. Currently there are 10,000 women age 40 and older in the public health care system. From July 1989 through June 1990, only 364 received mammograms, mostly diagnostic

in nature. All women now coming into the health care system in Palm Beach County will receive mammography screening.

By establishing a long-standing working relationship with mammography centers, free mammograms have been secured for the medically indigent. Thirty-four mammography centers have agreed to participate by providing free or low-cost mammograms.

Five public health centers have met with mammography centers that will provide mammograms to women who are referred to the centers. As of March 1991, all women who are eligible within the 150 percent federal poverty guidelines are referred for a mammogram. Missed appointments and mammography results are monitored. Through a coordinated effort, the health care centers' case managers refer women who fall between 150 percent and 200 percent of poverty guidelines to the local American Cancer Society office to be declared eligible for the donated free mammograms.

The Education Committee identified pamphlets and videos that are culturally sensitive and at the appropriate reading level. A "People Reach" pamphlet was developed that describes breast cancer risk factors and breast self-exam techniques in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole.

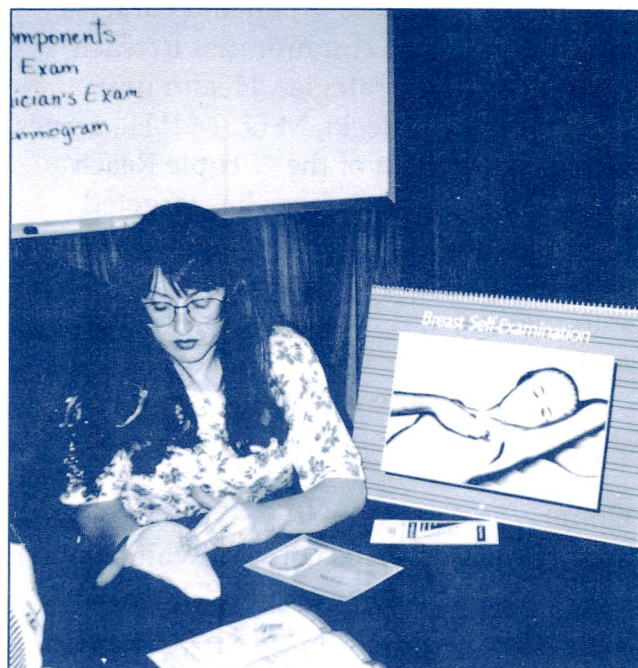
In November 1990, the task force formed a community coalition to target high-risk populations. This community coalition includes representatives of the media, Palm Beach County School Board, Planned Parenthood, Haitian translation services, Hispanic Human Resources, Latin American Information and Referral Services and a county commissioner. The coalition assisted the "People Reach" Task Force by submitting names of potential volunteers.

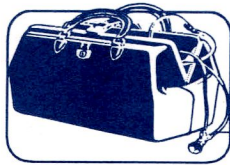
From May through September 1991, over 50 volunteers were trained as "People Reach" facilitators. Many of these volunteers are bilingual and/or represent

target populations.

Volunteers receive cultural sensitivity training and education on breast health, breast self-examination techniques, the importance of annual clinical examinations and mammograms for women 35 years and older. Facilitators learn to hold open discussions to dispel myths and fears, and provide information on how to access the health care system if cost is preventing a woman from getting mammograms.

Since April 1991, "People Reach" volunteers have been teaching early detection and prevention programs in churches, women's organizations, migrant camps, housing block associations and county senior meal sites. By September 30, 1991, "People Reach" facilitators reached 2,200 women about breast health.





SCHOOL BASE HEALTH CLINIC

School Health, under the Division of Nursing and Allied Services, provides quality health services to all students enrolled in Palm Beach County public schools. With the help of community support, special grants and the Palm Beach County School Board, the HRS/Palm Beach County Public Health Unit has established a trend in comprehensive school health services: the School Base Health Clinic at Glades Central High School.

Under the State Supplemental School Health Program, a full-time, full-service, school base clinic was established at Glades Central High School in Belle Glade in March 1991.

"It acts like a clinic," says School Health Nursing Supervisor Joan Bartleman. "It does everything a clinic does except maternity care. It was felt that the need is greatest in Belle Glade, but we'd like to see it in every high school - and any other school that needs it - because it really does work."

Staff consists of one full-time nurse, one half-time nurse and a full-time health support specialist. The health unit also provides a physician at the site two and a half days per week. The health room is a portable classroom on the school site, which provides a separate entry and easy access parking for parents.

"We're really meeting the parents' needs," Bartleman says. "They're quite ecstatic that they can get the services here." Parents like the convenience of an on-site clinic. There is more flexibility, so parents can have more than one child seen at a time if needed. Also, case management allows the staff to get to know the students,

enabling them to better assess problems and provide follow-up care.

All parents who had given their consent by the end of August 1991 have approved for their child to receive all services - including family planning and sexually transmitted disease. From July 1 through Sept. 30, 1991, 351 students were seen, resulting in 775 visits.

Services provided include school and sports physicals, immunizations, caring for sick students, skin tests for tuberculosis, family planning and HIV counseling, hearing and vision screenings and health education. Staff also make referrals to students' doctors or the local public health center for X-rays, positive tuberculosis tests, HIV testing and counseling, lab tests, nutrition services, dental services, gynecology, surgeons and physician specialists such as cardiologists and ophthalmologists.

An advisory committee consisting of local agencies, churches, school representatives and parents reviews and evaluates consent forms, addresses accessibility to services, forms goals and objectives for the clinic and uncovers resources.

Beginning in 1992, services will also include an HIV clinic with counseling and testing with the HIV Prevention Center in Belle Glade. Staff will also start a well baby clinic for children of the students.

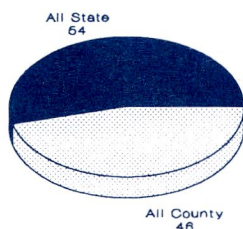
"The kids requested this. Our staff is responding to what the kids say they need," Bartleman says. "The students have adopted the staff in the clinic. There is ownership on the part of the students, and trust."



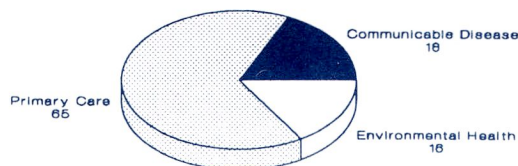
ADMINISTRATION

During contract year Oct. 1, 1990 - Sept. 30, 1991, the HRS/Palm Beach County Public Health Unit had 673.8 full-time positions. There were 1,000,295 services provided by these employees to 172,565 clients or entities. The total cost of these services was \$35,540,725, a cost of \$33.52 per service or \$205.96 per client or entity.

Percent of Total Revenues (Including Fees)



Percent of Total Cost



Services provided this year ranged from special intensive intervention services focusing on 75 families in Boynton Beach to actions related to breaks in public water mains. Communicable disease services necessary to inform the public of the danger of St. Louis encephalitis dominated the fall and early winter.

Changes in financial eligibility determination resulted in an increase in the number of people served in the health unit. Off-site maternity care services increased with more women receiving maternity care services by contract providers. This also

resulted in an increase in the number of women served in the first trimester of pregnancy. A special program called the Kid's Corner was started at St. Mary's Hospital because that hospital serves the largest number of indigent families. This service allows ill children to receive immediate medical attention and provides relief to overburdened health unit clinics.

The cooperative effort of the Palm Beach County Health Care District and the health unit has continued. The improvement of home health services was a primary focus this year. Collaborative efforts have resulted in the expansion of internal medicine, newborn services and maternity services for Health Care District and health unit clients at both St. Mary's Hospital and Good Samaritan Hospital. Expansion of limited delivery services at Good Samaritan Hospital allows women who are having Caesarean deliveries to receive tubal ligations at the same time.

Continuing to promote public/private partnerships between the community and the health unit, Volunteer Services provided 402 volunteers at six health centers. These volunteers have contributed thousands of service hours valued at \$336,336. In addition, 301 businesses contributed to various programs and events, bringing the total amount of goods and services donated to a total of \$575,991.





EPIDEMIOLOGY & DISEASE CONTROL

Epidemiology literally means "a study of the people." We must constantly reach out to the community to accomplish this. We study the determinants and distribution of disease and other factors affecting the health and safety of our community. We compile data and assess trends. We help identify people and groups who may be at risk of acquiring or spreading a disease, or at risk of being negatively or positively affected by a certain situation or intervention.

We make recommendations for intervention or intervene ourselves to help stop the spread of disease or otherwise take action to enhance and preserve the community's health and safety.

The Division of Epidemiology and Disease Control provides guidance and direction for other people within the HRS/Palm Beach County Public Health Unit and in the community who are reaching out with their own programs.

This division helps target populations that might benefit the most from available resources. This method to assist in prioritizing programs and to enhance work efforts is increasingly important. Some of the division's projects include: infant mortality study, maternal substance abuse study, sea lice study, employee health guidelines and recommendations for management of needle stick injuries that occur in the community.

In recent years, the decrease in disease caused by *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) has truly been a success story.

Haemophilus influenzae type b is a bacterium that can cause serious disease, especially in children under five years of age. Hib is not the cause of the "flu"

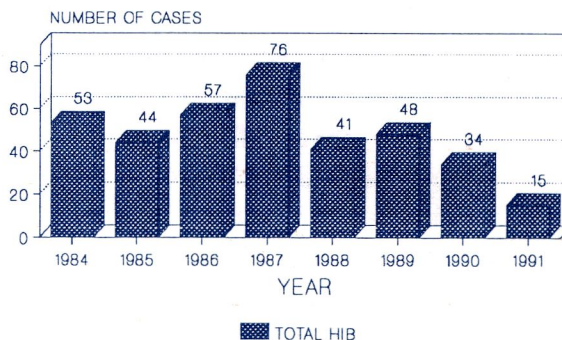
(influenza). In the U.S., Hib causes about 12,000 cases of meningitis (infection of the covering of the brain) each year. About one child in every 20 with meningitis caused by Hib dies. About one in every four has permanent brain damage. Hib can also cause pneumonia and infections of other body systems such as blood, joints, bone, soft tissue under the skin, throat and the covering of the heart.

Hib meningitis is the leading cause of acquired mental retardation in the U.S.

The first Hib vaccine became available in the U.S. in 1985. A new vaccine, Hib conjugate, became available in 1988 and its use for infants was approved in 1990.

The graph illustrates the dramatic

HIB MENINGITIS AND OTHER INVASIVE DISEASE PALM BEACH CO., FL. 1984-1991



HRS/PBCPHU DIV OF EPIDEMIOLOGY

decline of Hib disease in Palm Beach County credited to the new vaccines and immunization programs targeting their use in infants and children. Preliminary data for 1991 indicate that there may be as much as an 80 percent reduction in the number of Hib cases in 1991 in Palm Beach County compared with 1987, our year with the most cases.

What we cannot illustrate is the number of potential Hib cases prevented in the years before the vaccines were in use and those that continue to be prevented.

Our surveillance and disease control systems are constantly in place to promptly

identify an existing Hib case and prevent spread of the disease by identifying contacts of the case and by recommending and arranging for prompt chemoprophylaxis of appropriate contacts, often including day care center attendees. We gather information and offer assistance, guidance and support to the families and contacts touched by this frightening disease.

For the first time in 10 years, St. Louis encephalitis (SLE) affected Palm Beach County residents. SLE is caused by a virus that exists in the wild bird population. A mosquito, *Culex nigripalpus*, acquires the virus while biting birds and then transmits the virus to humans through bites.

Most infections in humans have no symptoms; mild cases often occur as headaches with fever or as aseptic meningitis. Severe infections are marked by acute onset of headache, high fever, meningeal signs, stupor, disorientation, coma, spasticity, tremors, convulsions and may lead to death. The elderly are at greatest risk from encephalitis.

Between Sept. 3 and Nov. 6, 1990, 110 people in Palm Beach County met the case definition for SLE. Of these, 16 were confirmed and 10 were classified as presumptive by laboratory testing. Seventeen remained suspect because testing was not completed. Twenty-two were ruled out for medical reasons and 45 had negative test results. There were no deaths attributed to SLE.

The Division of Epidemiology and Disease Control worked with the Division of Environmental Health and the Palm Beach County Mosquito Control in the SLE sentinel chicken surveillance program and mosquito control program. We worked closely with various state and local agencies and with the media to provide updated health advisories regarding the status of the epidemic and the need for citizens to take precautions to avoid mosquito bites. During this time, the hours for various community

activities had to be changed to avoid exposure to mosquitoes.

On Dec. 18, 1990, the State Office of Epidemiology announced that the entire state could resume normal activities without fear of contracting SLE. In Palm Beach County, sentinel chicken surveillance and other surveillance activities for SLE continue annually.

Florida has the third highest number of reported AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) cases in the United States. Palm Beach County has the third highest number of AIDS cases in Florida.

In Florida, HIV positive, asymptomatic persons are not required by law to be reported. Therefore, the following data include only those people who meet the Centers for Disease Control case definition for AIDS and who were residents of Palm Beach County at the time of diagnosis.

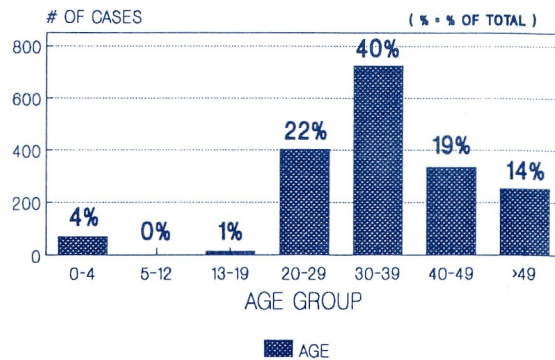
The cumulative total of AIDS cases from 1980 through December 1991 for Palm Beach County is 1,803. Of this total, 68 percent have died. The number of cases in the adult/adolescent age range is 1,732. Pediatric cases total 71 and were all infected by HIV positive mothers.

The risk group, sex and race distributions vary between coastal and western Palm Beach County. These data are used to provide direction for HIV education and prevention activities, and to help acquire funding for services.

The health unit has an HIV Testing and Counseling Program designed to prevent the transmission of AIDS through risk assessment and preventive education.

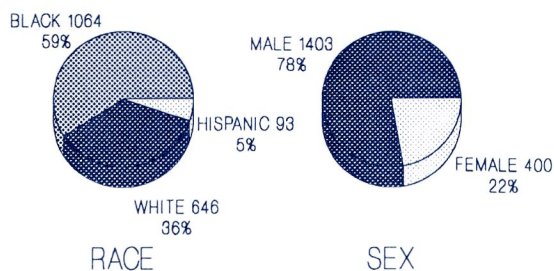
HIV testing and pre-test and post-test counseling are provided at anonymous sites and are confidentially provided at sexually transmitted disease (STD), maternity, family planning, tuberculosis, pediatric and adult primary care clinics. Anyone may call for an appointment for anonymous counseling and testing. They are identified by number only.

CUMULATIVE AIDS CASES PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA BY AGE GROUP



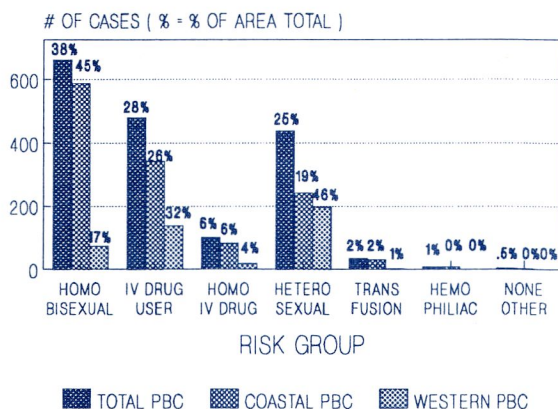
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CUMULATIVE AIDS CASES PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA BY RACE / SEX



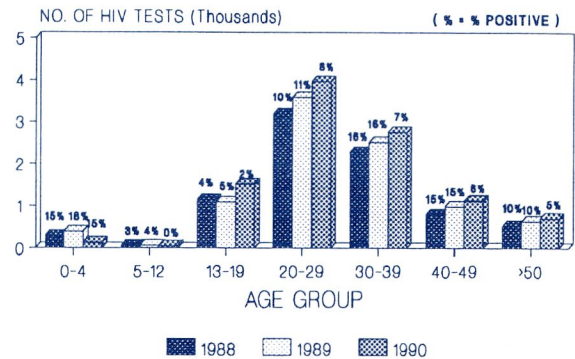
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CUMULATIVE AIDS CASES PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA BY RISK GROUP (ADULT)



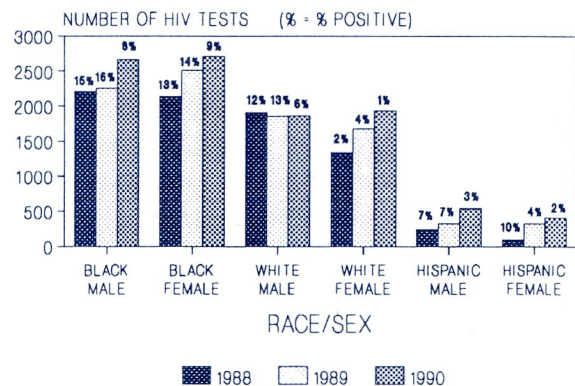
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HIV TESTING BY AGE PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA 1988 - 1990



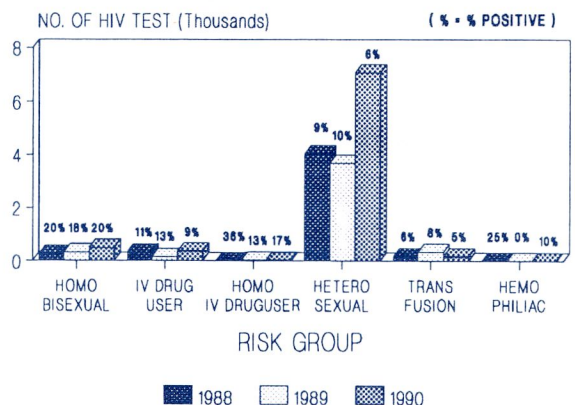
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HIV TESTING BY RACE/SEX PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA 1988 - 1990



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HIV TESTING BY RISK GROUP PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA 1988 - 1990



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HIV/AIDS MEDICAL CLINICS

The health unit provides primary medical services to those who test positive for HIV. Care for HIV/AIDS clients is provided countywide, with a centralized clinic that provides intensive services. These services include physician visits, psychological counseling, legal support, case management, nutrition counseling, aerosolized pentamidine, laboratory and X-ray services and experimental protocols.

The number of clients from July 1, 1990 through June 30, 1991 was 1,883. This total changes daily. About 400-500 clients show no signs of disease. Each week, an average of 500 clients are seen. About 72 appointments for new clients are made each month.

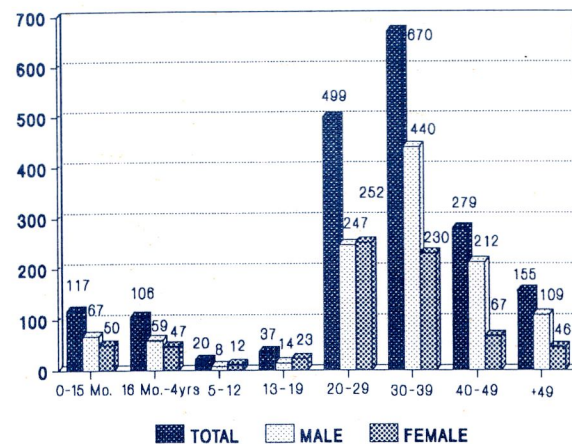
During 1990-91, the number of rare opportunistic infections diagnosed increased because clients are living longer. Over 600 clients were being treated with AZT. They are monitored closely with laboratory studies and health assessments.

Use of DDI (didanosine) has increased. DDI was initially used under research protocol to treat patients who have intolerable side effects from AZT or continue to show clinical deterioration in spite of AZT treatment. DDI has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for more wide-spread use. The clinic also became involved in a study of DDC and is awaiting FDA approval.

The number of HIV/AIDS clients exposed and or infected with tuberculosis increased. Because many clients have lost the ability to react to the routine TB test, antigen panel testing has been introduced to see if client results are truly negative.

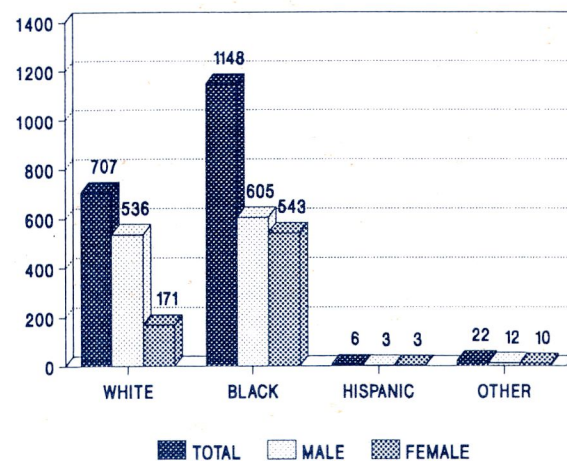
A grant recently received through the Palm Beach County Health Care District supports gynecological and family planning services for the HIV(+) woman.

HIV/AIDS PATIENTS PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL AGE OF PATIENTS JULY 1, 1990-JUNE 30, 1991



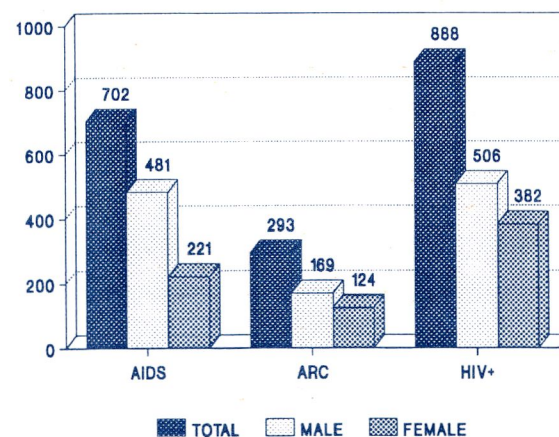
HRS/PBCPHU INFORMATION RESOURCES MGT.

HIV/AIDS PATIENTS PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL RACE/ETHNICITY JULY 1, 1990-JUNE 30, 1991

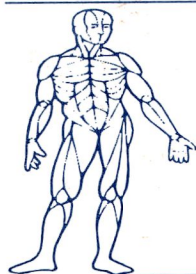


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HIV/AIDS PATIENTS PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL DISEASE STAGE JULY 1, 1990-JUNE 30, 1991



HRS/PBCPHU INFORMATION RESOURCES MGT.



TUBERCULOSIS & SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

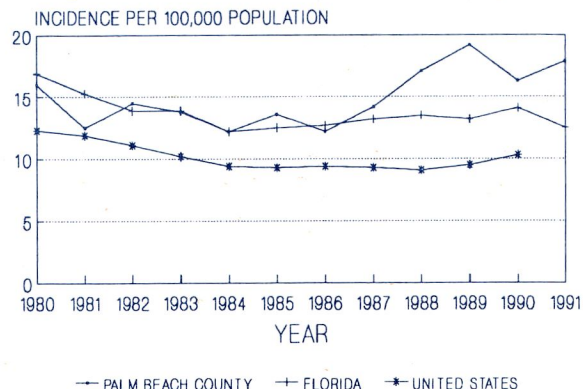
The staff of the Tuberculosis Control Clinic in West Palm Beach and its satellite clinics in Delray Beach and Belle Glade made tremendous efforts during 1990-91 to bring information about TB screening and elimination into the community.

"Make the Glades TB Free" was a community health fair held July 1991 at the C.L. Brumback Health Center in Belle Glade. The event provided free tuberculosis screening, along with other services, to more than 100 people in the area. Those who tested positive during TB screening received follow-up care at the TB clinic. Because of the event's success, similar health fairs are planned for West Palm Beach and Delray Beach. TB Elimination days will be an annual event at all the main sites.

The health unit's Pediatric Tuberculosis Clinic at 3701 Broadway in West Palm Beach is unique in being one of the very few separate TB clinics. The clinic boasts full medical coverage with a pediatrician who has had one-to-one training in TB treatment and prevention. This clinic is very active and successful because it serves as an entrance for children not only to be examined and treated for TB and TB infection, but also to receive immediate and close referral for other medical conditions. Many of these children would not be seen in any clinic if they did not have a positive skin test.

Despite the nation's overall decrease in TB numbers since 1956, there has been a subtle increase in Florida since 1988. This increase coincides with the AIDS epidemic.

TUBERCULOSIS INCIDENCE PALM BEACH CO., FL. AND U.S. 1980-1991



HRS/PBCPHU DIV OF EPIDEMIOLOGY

In Palm Beach County, we are also experiencing the problem of multi drug resistant TB, as are Dade and Broward counties. A.G. Holley Hospital continues to be a resource for our most sick and difficult TB cases.

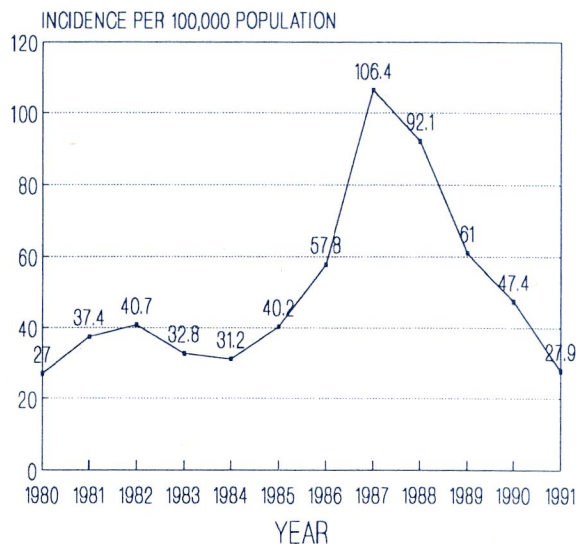
The prevention of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) is a significant public health concern in Palm Beach County. Presently, our program priorities are to intervene in the transmission of infectious syphilis and HIV (the virus that causes AIDS). However, other STDs are frequently treated in STD clinics, including: gonorrhea, chlamydia, venereal warts (HVP), chancroid and herpes.

From January through October 1991, 557 cases of infectious syphilis were reported in Palm Beach County. This represents a 26 percent decrease in morbidity rates for the same period in 1990. HIV is not a reportable condition by law in Florida, therefore there are no exact reports on the number of individuals who are HIV positive in Palm Beach County.

The number of congenital syphilis cases reported in Palm Beach County from January through October 1991 was 40, a 48 percent increase from the 27 reported in 1990. However, this increase is largely

attributed to the Centers for Disease Control's revised method for defining and reporting congenital syphilis cases. The new case definition for surveillance ensures that no case of congenital syphilis goes unreported. Consequently some non-cases are reported.

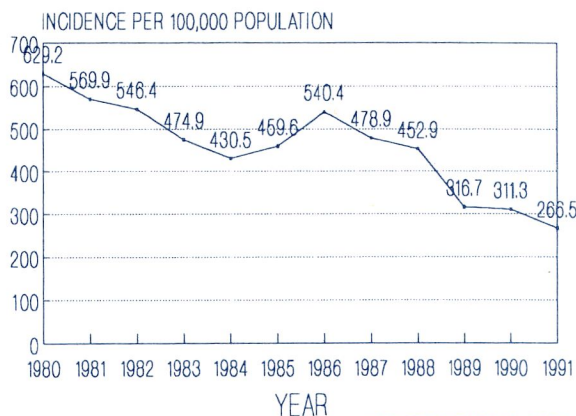
PRIMARY & SECONDARY SYPHILIS RATES PER 100,000 POPULATION PALM BEACH COUNTY, 1980-91



HRS/PBCPHU DIV OF EPIDEMIOLOGY

1991 PROVISIONAL DATA

GONORRHEA RATES PER 100,000 POPULATION PALM BEACH COUNTY, 1980-91



1991 PROVISIONAL DATA

— PALM BEACH COUNTY

HRS/PBCPHU DIV OF EPIDEMIOLOGY



NURSING & ALLIED SERVICES

The Division of Nursing and Allied Services focused on several outreach efforts during 1990-91. These projects included: the Southeast County Health Center's Annual Migrant Fair in November 1990, "Make the Glades TB Free" health fair at the Belle Glade Health Center in July 1991, and an immunization project at the Ivy Green Housing Development in August 1991.

Nursing and Allied Services has conducted much of its outreach work to focus on the special needs of infants and children in Palm Beach County.

In response to the increase in the number of infants born to substance-abusing mothers, the health unit created the Special Infant Services Program (SIS). A team of two nurses, one clinical social worker, one outreach worker, a clerk and a Nursing program specialist counsels and monitors clients.

From October 1990 through September 1991, SIS served 730 babies and 854 mothers. Of those served, 294 of the babies were newborn and 215 mothers were newly pregnant.

Women who test positive for drugs or alcohol in maternity clinics and those who deliver without prenatal care are referred to the SIS team for counseling. Besides counseling and monitoring a client, staff members arrange for a drug-rehabilitation evaluation. The SIS team performs case management for newborns through 18 months of age. Social service assistance is rendered to patients who need it. Close ties have been established with Child Protective Services to maintain the safety of the infants.

Nursing and Allied Services completed a study in May 1991 that tested newborns for HIV/AIDS exposure and infection. The tables, on page 12, contain cumulative data through March 1991.

The HIV/KIDS Project, which tracks HIV-infected infants, has begun to coordinate its effort with the current Follow-Up Newborn (FUN) tracking system. This will enable the health unit to obtain valuable information on risks and co-occurrences of TB, syphilis, hepatitis B and HIV/AIDS in this population.

To ease access to maternity clinics,

Palm Beach County HIVKIDS Specimen Disposition
June 1989 through March 1991

Total Number Collected	5,694
Number Discarded or QNS	397
Total Tested	5,297
Data Insufficient	194
Total Eligible Specimens	5,103
0-6 Weeks	3,549 (70%)
15-24 months	1,554 (30%)

Palm Beach County HIVKIDS Summary
Maternal, Demographic, Seropositivity Data
June 1989 through March 1991

	0-6 Weeks		15-24 Months	
Total Eligible Specimens	3,549		1,554	
Age range of mothers	12-45		15-49	
Mean Age	26		34	
Race/Ethnicity	*%T	*%P	*%T	*%P
White	34.5	1.4	14.8	10.0
White Hispanic	13.8	0.0	18.3	10.0
Black	40.3	84.3	51.0	60.0
Black Hispanic	1.6	1.4	1.0	0.0
Indian	0.6	0.0	0.3	0.0
Asian	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.0
Haitian	6.8	11.4	12.7	10.0
No Ethnicity	2.1	0.0	1.7	10.0

*%T=percent of total tested

*%P=percent of total positives

Seropositive Specimens

Number HIV Positive by western Blot test	70	10
Age Range of Mothers	15-39	17-34
Mean Age	36	28
Median Age	25	29
Rate per thousand	19.7	6.1



the health unit has joined with the Health Care District, Palm Beach County Medical Society, Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies, Women's Health Care Center, Planned Parenthood and other agencies to ensure all pregnant women in Palm Beach County will be able to receive early prenatal care. More women receiving prenatal care and receiving it earlier in pregnancy has resulted in a reduction in the infant mortality rate in Palm Beach County.

Although clients receive a full variety of family planning services through the health unit, limited space and resources have decreased access to family planning services. In 1990-91, the health unit established a referral system to agencies such as Woman to Woman, Planned Parenthood and the Presidential Women's Center.

In addition to conducting the regular school program, school nursing staff served on committees for strategic planning for issues facing Palm Beach County in 1990-91. These efforts included involvement in: child advocacy, teen parent advisory, the Homeless Coalition, foster parent outreach, migrant services and ESE Interagency Council. Staff also expanded services in three schools funded by grants from the Children's Services Council including a state-funded School Health Improvement Project and a full service school base model.



NUTRITION SERVICES

Nutrition Services reached Palm Beach County residents through health unit clinic services, mass media and community programs - and by promoting good health through good nutrition in over 67,000 services in 1990-91.

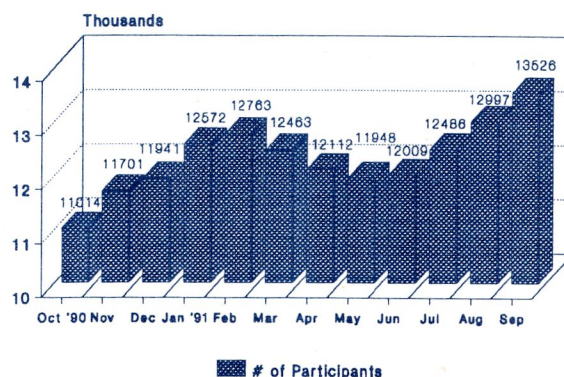
The Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC), a major nutrition program, had a record number of 13,526 participants in September 1991, despite caseload management earlier in 1991 that caused temporary declines in the number served. The WIC Program is serving about 48 percent of those within eligible range, above average for the state. Staff serving WIC clients has increased in response to a growing caseload. The WIC computer system was implemented in all clinic sites, increasing service efficiency. The WIC Program infuses over \$7 million annually into the county economy in payments to participating grocers.

To provide better access to WIC services for migrant farm workers, Nutrition Services established satellite check issuance sites at a school in Southwest Palm Beach County and at the East Coast Migrant Head Start Center in Belle Glade. A downtown Belle Glade issuance location is being developed and evening clinic hours are available at the Belle Glade health center. The division has employed people bilingual in English and Spanish or Creole in all clinic locations, and has developed written nutrition education materials in all three languages.

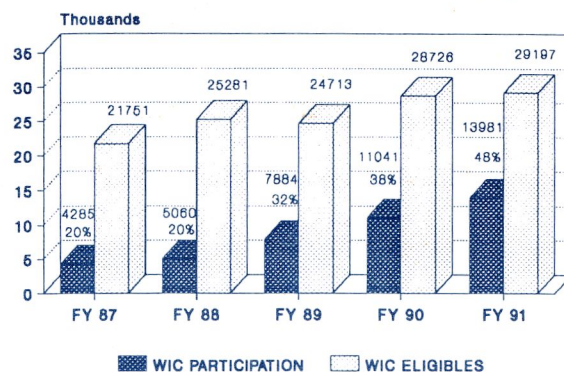
WIC clients are a target group for "missed opportunities" for childhood immunizations. As part of the health unit's Immunization Subcommittee on Missed Opportunities, a special project was established

to contact WIC clients whose children are not receiving immunizations on schedule. A WIC wallet size card reminding parents of the immunization schedule is given to clients with WIC checks. Nursing and Nutrition supervisors in each health center have correlated immunization and WIC appointments. Nutrition and Nursing have collaborated on production of a video tape

NUTRITION SERVICES DIVISION WIC PROGRAM PARTICIPATION



NUTRITION SERVICES DIVISION WIC PARTICIPATION VS ELIGIBLES



promoting healthy children through good food and immunizations.

Walk-in WIC certifications for pregnant women making their first contact with the health unit maternity care system have continued. The infant mortality statistics continued to show a decrease in Palm Beach County; WIC is a part of the health unit's aggressive efforts to reduce rates.

A nutritionist position was funded in

the Belle Glade health center to provide nutritional care services for maternity and postpartum clients. Regularly scheduled nutrition education services are provided to a residential program for substance abusing pregnant women, a parenting skills center for teen mothers and to postpartum, family planning and pregnancy test clients at Planned Parenthood in Belle Glade.

A nutritionist continued to be involved in the state-wide Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies Coalition Breastfeeding Promotion Task Force. During 1990-91, the task force completed development of model policies for breastfeeding promotion in hospitals and coordinated implementation of the policies in key hospitals in Palm Beach County.

Nutrition Services completed a nutrition manual for grades K-3 through a Nutrition Education and Training Grant. The Journal of School Health published an article by two Nutrition Services staff members in May 1991 describing the program. Copies of the program have been requested by many people in the United States and other countries.

Weight reduction classes were implemented in medical clinics. As part of the health unit's Health for Life program nutritionists worked with other staff members to begin a series of four diabetes control classes in the West Palm Beach medical clinic. A nutritionist is conducting a fitness and nutrition group for overweight teens in the Glades Central High School school based clinic.

The division increased the number of nutritionists working with AIDS patients from one to two full-time positions with a Children's Services Council grant. The pediatric AIDS nutritionist provides intensive nutritional management services for infants and children who are HIV positive or have AIDS living at Connor's Nursery, as well as those seen in the clinic. The two nutritionists have arranged

mechanisms for Medicaid reimbursement for special formulas and are providing counseling services in the Tuberculosis Control Clinic that serves a number of HIV positive and AIDS clients.

Nutrition Services worked with television media to promote healthy eating habits for all citizens in Palm Beach County. Nutritionists produced eight television cooking programs with the Palm Beach County channel entitled "On Your Table" featuring low calorie, low fat, lower cost recipes. Each program was aired eight to twelve times between September 1990 and April 1991. CBS affiliate Channel 12 established a live biweekly noon news segment on nutrition featuring a Nutrition Services staff member. Ten timely nutrition topics highlighting food preparation, healthy recipes and nutrition news were presented by the end of September 1991 for viewing audiences of 44,000 to over 50,000 persons.

Palm Beach County was a site of the national Health and Nutrition Evaluation Survey (HANES III) in 1991. Nutrition Services contributed to media coverage of the survey. The national director presented a seminar on the history and design of the HANES studies to health unit staff.

As the WIC Program participation has increased, staff has focused on the maternal and child health population and especially on WIC participants who comprise about 1.5 percent of the total county population. Programs and grant funds have allowed valuable expansion of services and staff to other programs known to need nutrition services including maternity clients in the Glades and children with HIV/AIDS. As a result, more services can be delivered to more clients and positive health goals throughout the total community can be better achieved.



DENTAL PROGRAM

The Dental Program, in addition to its clinical dental service, is involved in various community-based activities.

The most significant achievement during the past year was the implementation of community water fluoridation in the cities of Delray Beach and West Palm Beach. This proven preventive measure reduces dental caries in the community by up to 40 percent.

Since 1979, a school based sodium fluoride mouth rinse program has been conducted in Palm Beach County schools, primarily where water supplies have been deficient in fluoride. This program has been a great success. During the past year, 46,891 students in 70 schools countywide participated.

With the assistance of the HRS Dental Health Program in Tallahassee, our Dental Program completed a school based, community dental needs assessment in 1991. Because the study was designed to determine the needs for those children who would qualify for dental care at HRS/Palm Beach County Public Health Unit facilities, we conducted examinations in those schools with the greatest number of children eligible for the free and reduced cost lunch program. The study demonstrated that children who seek care in our facilities have 30 percent more dental disease than the national average for children of the same ages.

The Dental Program developed a dental hygiene externship program with Palm Beach Community College. This program provides the opportunity for second year dental hygiene students from Palm Beach Community College to gain

practical work experience in our dental facilities. During the past year, 26 students provided dental hygiene services to our clients.

Another area of community service involved providing over 300 dental screening examinations for the Head Start Program. These screening exams allowed the Head Start Program to refer only those students in need of dental treatment services to dental providers, saving the program the cost of unnecessary examinations.

The Dental Program actively participated in five community health fairs. Educational and career information was provided at four of the health fairs to hundreds of students throughout the county. The Dental Program provided dental treatment services to over 50 migrant workers during a Saturday clinic session.

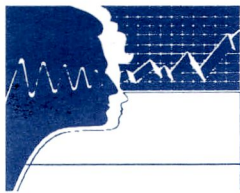
The Dental Program was involved in several issues related to HIV and AIDS on both local and state levels. Because of their involvement, senior staff members were requested to offer consultation and technical assistance to the Palm Beach County Dental Association, the Florida Dental Association, the Florida Board of Dentistry, the U.S. Public Health Service Centers for Disease Control and many others.

DENTAL HEALTH SERVICES SUMMARY

October 1990 - September 1991

Patient Visits	16,715
Treatment Services	64,821
Prophylaxis & Scalings (Cleanings)	6,167
Fluoride Treatments	2,811
Dental Sealants	3,781
Oral Hygiene Sessions	4,670
Extractions & Surgical Procedures	8,614
Restored Surfaces (Fillings)	7,881

•The HIV dental treatment facility provided 4,858 dental treatment services during 973 patient visits, in addition to the above services.



HEALTH EDUCATION

The Health Education Division provided over 40,000 educational encounters to residents of Palm Beach County from October 1, 1990 through September 30, 1991.

The Health Education/Risk Reduction Program (HE/RR) has provided preventive HIV/AIDS education to high-risk populations in Palm Beach County since 1989. During 1990-91, health service representatives reached over 19,000 individuals with messages on how to reduce their risk of exposure to HIV. This included people in churches, detention centers, mental health facilities, rehabilitation programs, half-way houses, probation and parole programs, health fairs and on the street.

HE/RR established two new programs to reach previously-underserved members of the community: the migrant farm workers and homo/bisexual men. The Seasonal and Migrant Farm Worker Program provided HIV/AIDS education to 2,892 migrant workers at 19 coastal labor camps in Palm Beach County. Much of this education was provided in Spanish to reach the large number of Hispanic farm workers.

The Gay and Bisexual Program reached 1,723 members of the community during its first year. During this period, 643, or 52 percent, of the AIDS cases in Palm Beach County were estimated to be homosexual or bisexual. The "Knowledge - The Gift of Life," "Everything You Wanted to Know About AIDS . . ." and other HE/RR-sponsored events offered AIDS education and awareness programs at numerous locations throughout the county.

Health educators provided family planning education to 3,343 patients in

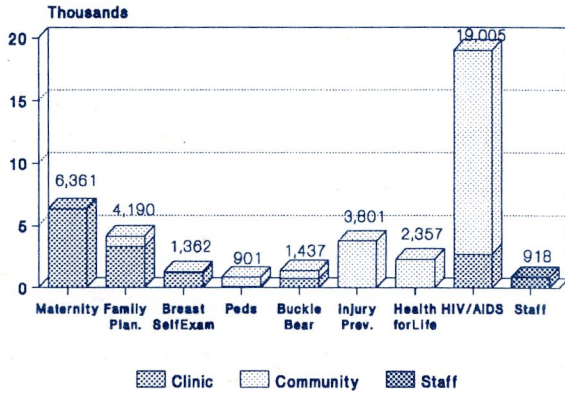


health unit clinics in 1990-91. In contrast, they provided 6,361 educational sessions to maternity clients. In large part, this emphasis on maternity education is attributed to improved access to the prenatal care system. In an effort to provide equal attention to, and improve, family planning services, a Family Planning Task Force has been established.

Health for Life, a worksite health promotion program, received the Secretary of Health and Human Services' Award for an exemplary community health promotion program in 1990. The program consists of an health educator, nurse and nutritionist who promote healthy lifestyles and chronic disease prevention. In 1991, Health for Life implemented a series of diabetes control classes in the West Palm Beach medical clinic that will be used throughout the health unit.

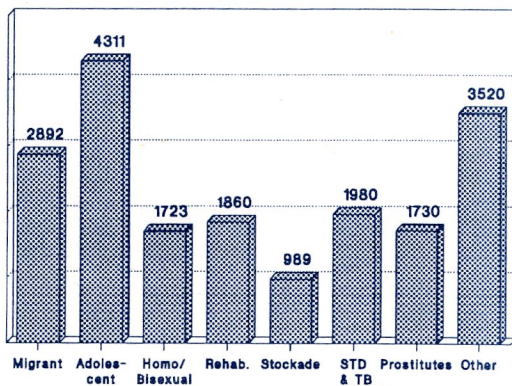
As part of the Health Education Division, the Injury Prevention Program (IPP) has been instrumental in the development and coordination of a broad-based, countywide Drowning Prevention Coalition. This coalition has coordinated the implementation of an education program in the Palm Beach County School System to promote water safety awareness in

HEALTH EDUCATION ENCOUNTERS OCTOBER 1990 - SEPTEMBER 1991



SOURCE: DIVISION OF HEALTH EDUCATION

HIV/AIDS EDUCATION OCTOBER 1990 - SEPTEMBER 1991



SOURCE: HEALTH EDUCATION/RISK REDUCTION

elementary school children. May through June 1991, 2,261 students participated in this program. The Injury Prevention program also provided water safety awareness programs to 1,510 Palm Beach County residents in community organizations and day care centers through the Gus and Goldie Water Safety program.

In addition to offering educational programs in the clinics and community, Health Education staff provided training to health unit and other HRS staff. Health educators provided 573 direct teaching hours to over 900 employees in Agency Orientation, Customer Service, CPR and AIDS training programs.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Environmental Health is a regulatory division, but also a helpful one. While rules and regulations are enforced, often those who must abide by them do not understand them fully. Our staff members provide consultation services to explain the various requirements, both physical and operational, for the numerous facilities we regulate. These facilities include: hospitals, nursing homes, schools, child care and family day care, foster homes, adult congregate living facilities, migrant labor camps and emergency shelters. Each facility has its own particular requirements for establishing and continuing a business.

Often, our staff members provide consultation concerning physical plant layout. We show how to best accomplish the operation's objective with the optimum use of space and equipment. We advise our clients on requirements for regional and area zoning, certificates of need and other information necessary to help them make intelligent decisions on location and infection control practices. We coordinate activities and act as a liaison between clients and other agencies. We also make referrals for radiological certification. These are only some of the many ways we help citizens by providing information to get the job done.

The establishment of the Office of Restaurant Programs in the Dept. of Health and Rehabilitative Services in February 1991 substantially reduced Environmental Health's responsibilities for food hygiene. All restaurants, including take-outs, were transferred to the new State office, as well as 12 of our staff. Environmental Health remains responsible for assuring the public

that food is stored, prepared and sold in a sanitary manner at food processors, outlets, convenience stores and institutions.

Over 10,000 food hygiene inspections were made to mobile food units, hospitals, nutritional sites, detention facilities, migrant labor camps, adult congregate living facilities, schools and other residential facilities.

Environmental Health responds to all foodborne illness complaints including those involving restaurants. This division investigates the source of the food, storage, preparation and handling. Food service in institutions is inspected quarterly. Extra care is taken in nursing homes where elderly residents' abilities to fight foodborne pathogens are diminished.

Hazard Control protects the public from unnecessary exposure to biological, chemical and physical environmental health hazards. This section conducts surveys and investigates all health related complaints involving such hazards. Staff members provide free consultation, advise and take environmental samples in private residences and work environments. Under this program, we also inspect and permit tanning facilities and biohazardous waste storage facilities and monitor carbon monoxide levels in cold storage coolers. Several other types of air quality testing are provided free of charge during surveys and investigations.

Sentinel chicken flocks are maintained in various locations within Palm Beach County to monitor the presence of mosquitos infected with the encephalitis virus. From October 1990 through September 1991, Environmental Health conducted 695 chicken bleedings on 29 separate days. When infected mosquitos bite the chickens the virus will show up in the chickens' blood. In October 1990, 35 birds tested positive for the encephalitis virus. Environmental Health worked closely with Palm Beach County Mosquito

Control and requested spraying in the area where infected mosquitos were found. The community was alerted through the media to dangers of being exposed to the mosquitos especially during their most active times of the day. Without this program the potential for serious illness would be many times greater.





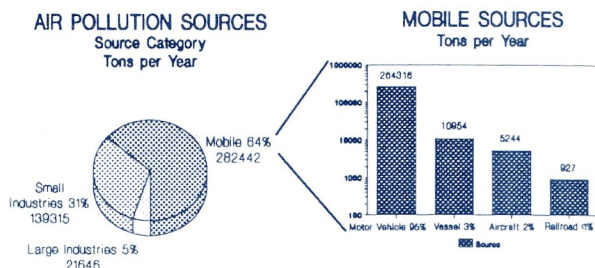
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

The Division of Environmental Science and Engineering protects the environment and health of Palm Beach County residents by monitoring and enforcing regulations regarding air quality, solid and hazardous waste control, water and wastewater, swimming pools and beaches. This division relies on community outreach and public information methods to educate the community about environmental pollution and other health hazards.

In 1990-91, the Air Pollution Control section conducted a variety of public

AIR POLLUTION SOURCES

Palm Beach County



information programs on automobile emissions testing to prepare area residents for the newly-mandated Motor Vehicle Inspection Program (MVIP). The MVIP began in April 1991 and mandates tail pipe emissions testing for most automobiles in six Florida counties with excessive air pollution.

In cooperation with the Florida

Department of Environmental Regulation (DER) and the American Lung Association of Southeast Florida, the Air Pollution Control section held 19 free automobile testing clinics and gave over 50 "mobile source" public information presentations. Staff members also participated in a 30 minute prime time air pollution documentary produced by WPTV Television. These agencies jointly developed an environmental conservation program which is routinely presented to students in the Palm Beach County School System.

On a more personal level, an Interagency Communications Program was also established to resolve citizens' complaints on smoking automobiles, pesticide application overspray, spray coating drift events, and smoke/ash from open burning. This has resulted in quicker response to such complaints.

During 1990-91, the Air Monitoring section continuously monitored air quality at 13 locations within the county. This section also generated a daily pollution index and pollen count for public information. The Air Monitoring section also performed a study on the impact of sugar cane burning and processing.

The Solid and Hazardous Waste section regulates the handling and disposal of wastes within the county through routine inspections of permitted disposal facilities, transfer stations, landfills, compost facilities and complaint investigations. Improved surveillance and interagency cooperation during 1990-91 has intensified the use of civil and criminal law enforcement actions on environmental crimes in Palm Beach County.

Community "right to know" information regarding toxic and hazardous chemicals is provided by publication, news releases, community presentations and complaint investigation. This section provides on-site emergency

response assistance during chemical spills regarding health effects and the environment.

The Water Supply section was again recognized by the Florida Dept. of Environmental Regulation for ensuring the supply of safe drinking water to Palm Beach County residents and visitors during 1990-91.

In February 1991, a water distribution problem in Boca Raton resulted in a notice to boil water for 14 days. This event highlighted the potential for regrowth of bacteria in water systems. The incident alerted all other water suppliers to the

SOLID WASTE

Complaint Investigations	745
Legal Action (NOV's)	134
Inspection of Solid Waste Facilities	252

HAZARDOUS WASTE

Complaint Investigations	351
Legal Action (NOV's)	37
Inspection of H/W Generators	1,342

COMMUNITY RIGHT-TO-KNOW

Number of Clients to whom Right-to-Know information was provided	5,286
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problem and programs have been developed to forestall a repeat of this phenomena. No illness associated with the problem were reported.

The Wastewater Control section regulates the 79 domestic sewage treatment plants in Palm Beach County. Sewage spills at Jupiter in November 1990 and Boca Raton in April 1991 caused the closure of some beaches for a short time until the extent of contamination was determined. In August 1991, Lake Wellington was considered a health hazard due to a sewage spill until cleared after seven days.

The Recreational Water section enforces state regulations for the nearly 2,500 public swimming pools and 25 public beaches in Palm Beach County. Due to the number of sewage spills in 1989-90, a

program was developed to sample all public bathing beaches for the quality of the water on a quarterly basis. This monitoring program provides background information which is invaluable in determining the extent of contamination in case of sewage spills which could affect beaches.

April 2, 1991, the HRS/Palm Beach County Public Health Unit received the responsibility of permitting construction or modification of public drinking water systems from the Dept. of Environmental Regulation (DER). The Plan Review and Permit section took on the added responsibility of entering all delegated permit application data into the DER tracking system. A DER fee increase for public drinking water permits was approved in 1991, all of which will be retained by the health unit.

WATER SUPPLY SECTION - ESE

WATER SYSTEMS	NO.	INSPECTIONS	BACTI SAMPLES
Community	72	108	1300
Non-Transient Non-Community	39	51	150
Non-Community	130	296	500
Semi-Public	136	237	1250
TOTAL	377	692	3200

From October 1, 1990 through September 30, 1991, this section processed the following number of permit applications: 993 on-site sewage disposal systems, 188 wastewater collection transmission systems, 30 wastewater treatment plants, 2,030 wells, 259 public drinking water systems, 65 public swimming pools. This section also reviewed 3,549 construction plans for water and sewer availability.



INFORMATION RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

During 1990-91, the Division of Information Resources Management (IRM) designed and implemented a wide area network known as the Palm Beach County Health Information Network (PBCHIN).

This network represents a significant improvement in connectivity and performance over the previous network. Currently, St. Mary's Hospital and Good Samaritan Hospital, the administrative office of the Palm Beach County Health Care District, the Palm Beach County Pharmacy Distribution Center, and the Palm Beach County Community Services have been added to the PBCHIN.

The design of this network received an international award from the International Communications Association and Network World (1991 Call for Innovation).

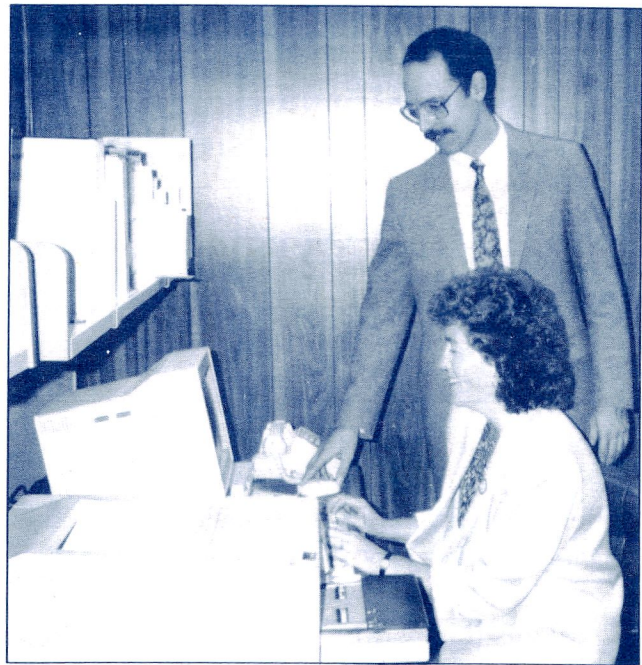
IRM also made immunization records available to health care providers at every patient visit by printing patients' immunization histories with their encounter forms at check-in time. This has assisted the health unit in ensuring that patients' immunizations are current.

Also during 1990-91, IRM established its Information Center which provides training and technical support to the personal computer users in all divisions. The Information Center will be expanded in the coming year to include an electronic bulletin board and a research library for the health unit's residency program as well as the medical community in general.

IRM decentralized data input to better meet the needs of the community health centers. High-speed optical mark readers, like those added to the

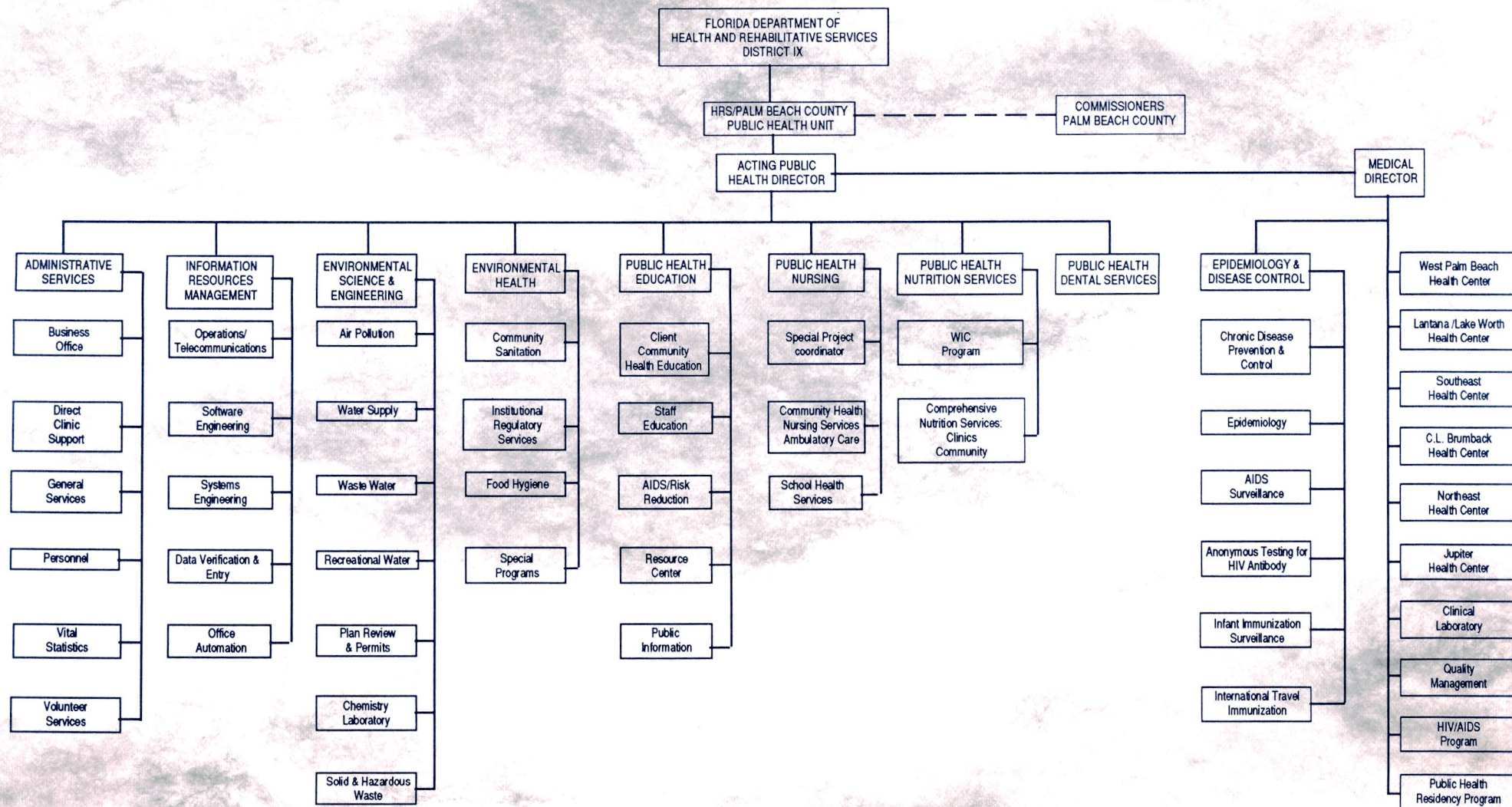
immunization program the year before, were installed. The development of new forms has made it possible to perform data entry of all encounters right in the health center via optical mark readers with attached computer systems. The implementation of the forms and optical mark reader was phased in one site at a time during May and June. Extensive support was provided to the center staff to smooth the transition.

This distributed computing power dramatically improves data entry time and accuracy while providing health center staff with data specific to the operation of the center.



Divisions & Programs

October 1, 1990 - September 30, 1991





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